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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1951.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ROTHERWICK.

June 1952.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1951.

STATISTICS.

Population - 17.270.

		Total	Male	Female	
Live Births	Legitimate	212	101	111	Birth Rate - 15.9 (Eng. & Wales - 15.5)
	Illegitimate	12	4	8	
Still Births		5			Rate per 1,000 total births - 22.
Deaths		177	98	79	Death Rate - 8.8 (Eng. & Wales - 12.5)

Death Rate of infants under one year per 1,000 live births ..... 26 (Eng. & Wales - 29.6)

There were 89 deaths due to heart and arterial diseases.
25 " " " cancer.
3 " " " pneumonia.
8 " " " suicide and violence.
1 " " " tuberculosis.

NOTFIABLE DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever ..... 9.
Pneumonia ..... 13.
Erysipelas ..... 6.
Measles ..... 206.
Whooping Cough ..... 50.
Dysentery - Salmonella .. 21.
Poliomyelitis ..... 1.
Meningococcal infection.. 1.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... 1.

The amount of infectious disease was much less than the average, except for measles and whooping cough.

An outbreak of food poisoning took place in June, and involved about 300 schoolchildren in this and adjoining districts who ate dinners at school prepared in the school kitchen in the Borough.

The outbreak was due to an organism of the Salmonella group, but investigations failed to establish how it got into the food or which food was involved. The incident shows the importance of a high standard of hygiene among those concerned in handling food at any stage, and the increased risks resulting from the communal feeding arrangements so general today.

The virtual disappearance of Diphtheria, and the dimished seriousness of Scarlet Fever, are noteworthy features of recent years.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year 175 infants received this treatment - 123 school children received reinforcing doses.

WATER.

It is estimated that 50% of the dwelling houses in the district are connected to water mains: standpipes are few.

The Council's scheme for extensions of piped supplies progressed, and before long the district will be pretty well covered.

98 water samples were analysed; 34 were unsatisfactory and in these cases steps were taken to obtain a satisfactory supply.

Samples of all the public supplies have given satisfactory results on analysis.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

New houses completed since 1945:-

	Total	1951.
Private buildings -	126	20
Council " -	243	85

Number of houses repaired in consequence of informal action (year 1951) - 36.

The shortage of houses remains the most serious social and health problem today.

Moveable Dwellings.

There are 24 licensed caravans occupied in the District. The sanitary condition of the sites is satisfactory.

RIVERS POLLUTION PREVENTION.

Steps were taken to prevent pollution of streams in 17 cases.

SCAVENGING.

The Council possesses two 10 cubic yard Dennis Refuse Collection vehicles and refuse collections are carried out fortnightly throughout the district, with the exception of a few of the smaller parishes where collections are made monthly. Refuse is taken to a controlled tip at Sherborne St. John.

The Council have a Dennis Cesspool Emptying vehicle which continues to meet a real need.

FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION.

Bakehouses - Periodical inspections of the 5 bakehouses are made.

Unsound Food - 368 lbs. of unsound foods were surrendered and condemned during the year.

Ice Cream - 22 ice cream samples were taken and found satisfactory upon analysis.

Yours faithfully,

M. AVENT,

Medical Officer of Health.

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